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Online application process for CUET begins

CUET will provide a single-window opportunity to students seeking admission to any central university across the country. From this academic session, CUET will be held for admission to UG programmes in all UGC-funded central universities. Students can fill in the applicaton form on cuet.samarth.ac.in. The test will have MCQs based on the content of class 12 NCERT textbooks. There will be negative marking for incorrect answers (0.25 for each wrong answer)

IMRAN LOSES NO-TRUST PLOT

Pakistan SC unanimously strikes down decision to reject no-confidence motion against PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN a landmark verdict, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday unanimously struck down National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri's decision to reject a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, levelling the playing field which could result in the premier's exit.

Suri had on April 3 dismissed the no-trust motion moved by the Opposition — when the ruling coalition had visibly lost its majority — claiming it was tied to a foreign plot to topple the government and hence was not maintainable. Chief Justice Bandial, who is heading a five-member bench comprising Justices Ijazul Ahsan, Mohammad Ali Mazhar Miankhel, Munib Akhtar and Jamal Khan Mandokhel, declared the deputy speaker's ruling unconstitutional. The five-member bench also declared dissolution of the parliament as unconstitutional.

The bench restored Parliament and declared the advice by the prime minister to President Alvi to dissolve the House as unconstitutional. The court ordered the speaker to call a Parliament session on Saturday at 10 am to restart the process of the no-confidence vote.

The court's judgment was broader than expected after the chief justice said earlier they would only rule on the legality of the no-confidence motion being blocked. By upholding constitutional propriety instead of giving any leeway to the ruling party's opportunism, the higher judiciary showed its strength of character and independence. That the military establishment had swung away from Imran would have weighed on the judicial minds when the bench arrived at the 5-0 verdict against Imran's machinations.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Bandial had remarked that the deputy speaker's ruling was prima facie a violation of Article 95 of the country's Constitution.

In his first reaction, Imran tweeted, "I have called a cabinet mtg tomorrow as well as our parl party mtg; & tomorrow evening I will address the nation. My message...is I have always & will continue to fight for Pak till the last ball."

As for Shehbaz Sharif, head of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-N, who is expected to be the next PM, he said the SC verdict has saved Pakistan and the constitution.

"Democracy is the best revenge! Jiya Bhutto! Jiya Awam! Pakistan Zindabad," said Bilawal Bhutto, chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party.

Recruitment for govt posts may get delayed

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AFTER a gap of close to two years, the state government has started calling for applications to fill a large number of posts in several departments which have been lying vacant. Yet, the process will now be delayed further as the Administrative Reforms Commission - 2 (ARC-2), which is stressing on abolishing some posts in the government sector, has to submit its report. The delay will continue to affect services for the citizens, while increasing the burden on the existing staff.

The state government had stopped recruitments for various reasons, including the pandemic that had impacted the revenue collection. Several departments, including those which directly deal with the people, were functioning with a much-reduced staff strength. This resulted in delays in implementing various schemes.

7.2 lakh	Number of sanctioned posts
4.6 lakh	Number of people working
2.6 lakh	Number of vacancies

CS Shadakshari, president, Karnataka State Government Employees' Association, said the sanctioned posts are 7.2 lakh, of which 2.6 lakh are vacant. "One can imagine the burden on the existing staff. At least 40,000 posts called by various departments in the past are before courts, and until courts give their nod, these posts cannot be filled," he said. P5

PUII

TIMETABLE OUT, EXAMS FROM APRIL 22

After much deliberations and revisions, the Department of Pre-University Education has released the final timetable for the second Pre-University board examinations. The examinations across the sate will now begin on April 22 and end on May 18 | P2

Despite court relief, Aakar stopped again

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi, Bengaluru

AAKAR Patel, former chairman of the Amnesty International, India, was stopped again from travelling to the United States at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, late on Thursday night, though a Delhi metropolitan magistrate's court earlier in the day allowed him to travel abroad.

The court directed the CBI director to apologise to Patel for a lookout circular (LOC) issued against him by the agency, which barred him from boarding a US-bound flight from Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Ordering the CBI to withdraw the LOC, the court said a written apology from the CBI director acknowledging the lapse by his subordinate would go a long way in healing his wounds.

Despite the speaking order, Patel was stopped at the immigration counter at Bengaluru late at night as the LOC had not been lifted till then.

Patel tweeted around 10.30 pm on Thursday, "Have been stopped at immigration again, CBI has not taken me off their lookout circular." Legal experts said that the problem could be because of the delay in the court order reaching officials at the airport. P10

EXPRESS READ

Man sets son on fire over financial dispute

Bengaluru: A 52-year-old businessman set his 25-year-old son ablaze over a financial row in the city on April 1. The son, who died on Thursday, had tried to defend his father despite sustaining burns telling the police that he had set himself ablaze. P3

After Russia, Iran to sell oil in local currency

New Delhi: Iran may follow the Russian example and start selling oil and gas in its currency, rial, instead of US dollars. The rial is likely to be bound to gold, just like Russian rouble. P9

Students can intern abroad: UKR colleges

New Delhi: In a big relief to thousands of Indian students, several Ukrainian medical universities have allowed foreign students to gain practical training at hospitals in their own countries. P10

Sri Dharmarayaswamy Temple in Bengaluru's Thigalarapete being spruced up ahead of the Karaga festival, on Thursday | VINOD KUMAR T

Karaga, festival of harmony, from today

SHILPA P @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU is gearing up for a full-fledged Karaga festival, which is a symbol of communal harmony, this time after two years of muted celebrations because of the Covid pandemic. The 11-day festivities will begin from Friday at the famous Sri Dharmarayaswamy Temple at Thigalarapete (Kalyanapuri) in Bengaluru.

Even as communally divisive hijab, halal and azaan rows have been rocking the state, moulvis from Masthan Saab Dargha visited Dharmarayaswamy Temple and extended a formal invite for the Karaga procession to visit the dargha on April 16.

"This has been the tradition. Like how Karaga procession touches various temples, including Anjaneya Swamy temples in all four directions of the city, it will visit the dargha too. Karaga is celebrated for the wellbeing of humanity of the entire world (loka kalyana), irrespective of which community people belong to," said Dr K Lakshmana, a former trustee of Dharmarayaswamy Temple and president of South India Agnikula Vahnikula Kshathriya Mahasangha. P2

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